

Monday, January 13, 1997

Facing an equity stalemate

BUDGET CUTS THREATEN NUMBER OF FEMALE PROFS

by Faiza Mushtaq

Recent cuts to provincial transfer payments have increased pressure on academic institutions across the country to cut costs. But some are concerned that in the process of downsizing, employment equity for women could be threatened.

At McGill, women are already underrepresented among full-time employees, and account for only 37% of the University's part-time and sessional academic staff.

With the threat of further staff reductions haunting a number of departments, many part-time workers have become particularly vulnerable to lay-offs. This could decrease the total representation of women at McGill.

But Jackie Fee, director of McGill's Equity Office, says the administration is still enforcing its Employment Equity Policy, and further points out that "there have so far been no direct cuts to university equity offices in Québec."

Fee maintains that the current male-female ratio is not likely to be effected by university decisions to lay off any of its staff.

Dr. Shree Mulay, Director of the McGill Centre for Research and Teaching on Women, contends that the impending budget cuts do present grounds for concern.

"We have to carefully monitor the situation so that there is no disproportionate decrease in the number of female faculty," she says. But she seems confident that such a scenario is not likely to arise in the immediate future.

While McGill's tenuous ratio may or may not survive the cuts unscathed, the University's commitment to employment equity still compares favourably to the Ontario government's waning interest in fair representation.

Ontario's equity programs recently caught part of the brunt of the Harris government's extensive budget cuts. The province's nine-year old Faculty Renewal Program, which was used to fund new tenure positions for younger and female faculty, was recently terminated.

In addition, education cuts have led to the curtailment of courses — and part-time professors — in Women's Studies Programs across Ontario, from the University of Ottawa to the University of Toronto.

SLOW PROGRESS

McGill's Equity Policy was adopted in 1992 and has so far provided less than dramatic results in addressing the imbalances of representation according to sex.

The figures for the 1989-1990 academic year place the female presence in the total academic staff (including part-time and research staff) at just under 30%. Five years later, that figure had risen by only half a percent.

And the number of women holding the position of full professor at McGill University continues to hover at about 9%.

But Junith Barron-Mee, senior planning analyst at the University Planning Office, maintains that McGill's hiring practices have been changing for some time now.

"The total number of assistant

professors on tenure track has gone down, but the percentage of female ones has risen from 28% in 1989, to 35% in 1996," she notes.

Laurel Bossen, who teaches Women's Studies courses through the Anthropology Department, says the shortage of women professors has been a serious problem in the past. But she says she is hopeful that over the next generation the situation at McGill will improve.

For Bossen, the importance of having a roughly equal number of women faculty cannot be overlooked.

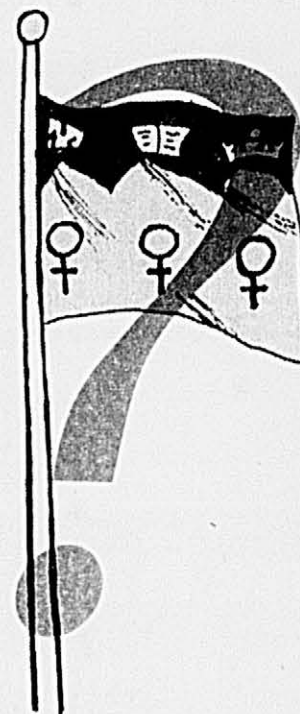
Bossen suggests that female lecturers are more likely to include the female perspective, and to make the material more accessible to female students.

"The content of courses and the examples used are important in ensuring the ease with which women perceive themselves and their place in society," she says.

The more immediate obstacle to women's equal representation could be the cuts to staff and programs that already exist. To date, neither the McGill administration nor the Québec government has clearly spelled out the extent of expected budgetary cuts.

The present reprieve might be short-lived, and even McGill's Equity Director cautiously admits that the situation could be totally different a few months from now.

The question remains whether McGill's professed commitment to employment equity will be strong enough to survive its ever-worsening financial constraints.



Panhandling not permitted

TORONTO POLICE AND VICTORIA MERCHANTS

BLAME THE VICTIMS

by Sonia Verma

Anti-poverty organizations in Toronto have voiced sharp opposition to recent comments made by Metro City Police Chief David Boothby. Boothby's comments zeroed in on welfare fraud, prostitution and vagrancy as the targets for a police crackdown for the upcoming year.

The storm of criticism was sparked by a year-end interview with the Police Chief which appeared in the Toronto Star last month, where Boothby defined the goals and priorities for the Metro Force for 1997. Specifically, he identified panhandling as a major area of concern for the police and public alike. "Begging has become a business... and has become a real nuisance to people," Boothby is quoted as saying.

According to the Star, the Chief proceeded to explain that many people had told him they avoid shopping downtown because they are plagued by panhandlers.

Boothby's solution to the "problem" involves a proposal to re-implement federal vagrancy laws which were abolished over two decades ago. The legislation would empower police to crack-

down on the homeless and panhandlers. "It bothers me that a police officer can't really take somebody off the street for their own protection," he told the Star.

Andy Mitchell, Program Director with the Social Planning Council of Toronto, characterizes Boothby's comments as offensive.

"He talks about crime and poverty in the same breath," Mitchell says. "He is more concerned with the comfort of the comfortable, and has characterized poor people as an eyesore and a nuisance instead of human beings. His remarks reduce these people to an interference in the scenery for affluent people."

Although Mitchell readily admits that the number of homeless people and panhandlers on Toronto streets has skyrocketed, he argues that Boothby has entirely missed the mark in proposing a quick-fix solution of outdated vagrancy laws.

"There's no doubt in my mind that poverty in the city has gone through the roof," he says. "But over the past year over \$1-billion has been taken out of the pockets of the poor with the stroke of a

pen."

Mitchell is referring to the 21.6 per cent slash to Ontario's maximum welfare benefits. And this is only one component of sweeping regulatory changes in social assistance implemented by Mike Harris' Conservative government during its first year in office. The eradication of one fifth of income for poor people has been compounded by a barrage of cuts to other services such as affordable housing and rent control laws.

"If Boothby is really concerned about poverty he should be talking about jobs and housing instead of criminalizing the one means of survival left to them," asserts Sue Collis, an organizer with the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP).

In condemnation of the Metro Police Chief's comments, OCAP has called for "emergency actions" to combat Boothby's "promised war on poor people."

On January 25, OCAP is organizing a mass panhandling demonstration where the poor and anti-poverty activists will amass in the city's downtown core and panhandle in the complex of under-

ground shopping malls.

The action is intended to confront merchant and public discomfort about poverty and eliminate the invisibility of poor people. "Going underground to get warm and get the money that they need to survive is a way of life for a growing number of people in this city," Collis explains. "We want to transform the need of begging from an individual action to a broad-based action of political resistance."

But Collis warns that the even if the demonstration proves successful in galvanizing public awareness around issues of poverty, the attitude of the Metro Police Chief will remain unchanged, and the repercussions for the homeless could be severe. "If this attitude goes unchallenged, cops will still be encouraged to 'go out and get them'," she says.

DEMONSTRATE OR EDUCATE

For Jackie Ackerly, spokesperson for the Victoria-based Together Against Poverty Society, the deepening battlelines between

... CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Inside:

• East Timor

• Cuts to Student Services

• CANDU Sales to China

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Questioning McGill's councils and committees

WHO SETS STUDENT SERVICES PRIORITIES?

HEALTH AND DENTAL PLAN OVERSTEPS CONSTITUTION

The undergraduate Students' Society (SSMU) is still having trouble with its new Financial Ethics Research Committee (FERC). The committee's mission is to examine the ethics of SSMU financial contracts.

SSMU's most recent contract, the SSMU Health and Dental Plan, came into effect January 1 of this year, after a campus-wide refer-

coverage. SSMU council officially approved the plan at last Thursday's council meeting, despite that FERC never reviewed the contract.

VP Finance Jon Chomski, who is responsible for the new plan, stated that he had already fulfilled his duty to FERC by submitting a list of potential companies to the committee over the summer.

Yet according to the other

Students at McGill University may soon have to pay more money for fewer services. This scenario is not a new one at McGill, but this week students may get a say in how to make up the missing funds.

Whether their decisions will be respected is another question.

The Student Services budget finances everything from Career and Placement, to Student

Aid and the Health Services, and is also responsible for funding all levels of athletics, from intercollegiate to intramural. But this year it's going to fall \$245,000 short of its required operating revenue.

According to Wes Cross of the Office of the Dean of Students, almost half of Student Services' revenue comes from fees automatically deducted upon registration. With a projected decrease in enrollment, this \$4-million revenue is expected to drop by \$78,000 next year.

But the biggest drop in revenue is being imposed by the government which, until now, has subsidized Student Services with a \$1.8-

million provincial grant — just over \$70 for each student. According to Cross, the government is cutting its grant by \$100,000 for this year, and will cut it by an additional \$133,000 next year.

That means Student Services

Services (CCSS), made up of an equal number of students and Students Services staff members. But all final decisions rest with the CCSS chair, Dean of Students Rosalie Jukier.

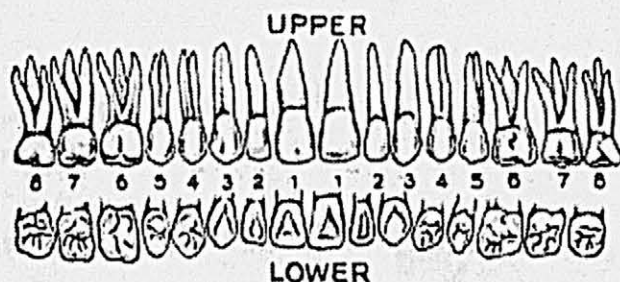
CCSS members seem confident that Dean Jukier will follow whatever decision they make, but students learned a hard lesson in 1995, when then-Dean of Students Irwin Gopnik ignored a student-endorsed proposal.

When extra money was discovered in the Student Services budget that February, students on the CCSS

developed their own plan for its allocation. But Gopnik ignored their priorities and presented his own budget to Senate for approval.

Question: This year, will anything students say really matter when the budget must be approved by Senate?

— with files from Jason Chow and Zachary Schwartz



endum approved a fee increase for a new contract including dental

councilors who sit on FERC, SSMU is violating its own constitution.

FERC was created by a campus-wide referendum last year, when undergraduates decided to change their constitution by ensuring that the SSMU constitution dictates that all contracts must go through FERC.

Question: With a clear mandate from students and after having been written in to the constitution, why is council still ignorant of FERC policy and procedures?

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Panhandlers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

Toronto police, merchants and the poor are all too familiar. Last April, the Downtown Victoria Association (DVA) declared that panhandling was bad for business. Anti-poverty organisations were faced with a similar situation as in Toronto, but arrived at a different solution.

According to Doug Fetherston, General Manager of the DVA, "people were encountering an obstacle course of panhandlers, dogs, bongo drums and sleeping bags. Shoppers had to step over them. I wouldn't go as far as to say that it was an unsafe situation, but the perception was definitely there."

The DVA spearheaded a publicity campaign advocating a "zero tolerance" approach from the police and the public to panhandling. The "Just Say No to Panhandling" initiative included public awareness counter cards displayed at local businesses which urged people to call 911 if "harassed" by panhandlers.

The series of bylaw reforms drafted by the DVA would have

outlawed "offensive behavior" ranging from spitting on the sidewalks to panhandling. The DVA also demanded greater police presence on downtown Victoria streets.

A coalition of anti-poverty groups, including Together Against Poverty Society, were instrumental in pressuring City Council to strike down the DVA proposals. This despite the fact that the recently re-elected Mayor Bob Cross had endorsed the by-law changes.

Ackerly contends that their success lay in their ability to coalesce public sympathy around the issue by providing real alternatives to a crackdown on panhandling. The Alternative Task Force on Panhandling generated a series of recommendations calling for greater income assistance, increased funding for social services and a community-based process for dealing with street issues.

These proposals provided a more viable strategy to decrease poverty because they work to stabilize the dwindling social

safety net. "The loss of the Canada Assistance Plan and the hacking away at social services province after province has taken away the right to welfare and made it a privilege. Panhandling is the only way left to survive," Ackerly comments.

Meanwhile, her group is gearing up for a renewed clash with the upcoming onslaught of tourists, and the DVA's promise to make the push for meaner streets a seasonal affair to protect business interests in the city.

Reflecting on the upcoming mass panhandling protest in Toronto, Ackerly is concerned that the "in your face" strategy adopted by organizers is "fraught with peril because it may be perceived as a threat, and may not bring about the shift in public attitude towards poverty that is needed."

However, she concedes that "poor people have to stop being invisible and say 'we're here'." One fifth of Canadians live below the poverty line and you have to begin to realize just how huge the problem is."



has three options, says Chris Carter, president of the undergraduate Students' Society and a member of the finance committee that will be looking at the problem.

Carter says Student Services can either increase fees by \$7 a year, make more cuts across the board, or eliminate some services and programs altogether.

The finance committee will propose where to cut, or whether to increase fees, by January 21, and will deliver its final report on February 4.

Decisions on the budget will then be reviewed by the Committee on the Coordination of Student



Brief

BIG BANKS SINK TO A NEW LEVEL

Homeless shelters are taking on the banks in Madison county, Wisconsin.

On Friday more than 300 people demonstrated in freezing weather to protest against big banks that refuse to pay their dues to the area's homeless shelters.

Wisconsin banks are required by law to set up a fund for shelters from interest on real estate accounts, for a small charge.

So far, small community banks and credit unions have regularly contributed to the fund, and some have even waived the service charges. But bigger banks with more money have been recalcitrant to lend a hand.

The biggest target of the protest is FIRSTAR, which deemed it necessary to charge shelters a fee of \$7863.42 in Madison, and in excess of \$23,000 in Milwaukee.

Last week, homeless shelters set up the Emergency Alliance to Support the Homeless and began leafletting across the city. These actions culminated in Friday's demonstration.

Source: The alternative newsservice
<http://www.tao.ca/wind/ainfos.html>

East Timor... self-determination still a lo

EAST TIMORESE ACTIVIST CONDEMNS INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR INDONESIA

by Adina Spivak

Constantino Pinto was 12 years old when Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975. Now an activist in exile, Pinto spoke recently at Concordia University.

He remembers, "My father said this is going to be worse than the Japanese War...the future to us was death."

Pinto joined the guerilla fighters at 14 years old and was then sent to a concentration camp where people were given 6 cups of rice to feed themselves for a week.

Since then, East Timor, a colony of Indonesia, has lost over 1/3 of its population as a result of years of Indonesian attacks on the East Timorese. These attacks make it clear that the East Timorese people's goal of self-determination is not something the Indonesian government is willing to allow.

Today Pinto is trying to make known the plight of his people, commenting, "No one knows where East Timor is. They say, is it a car or a tree?"

Under the leadership of President Suharto, Indonesia has waged a campaign of rape, torture, and exploitation of East Timorese land and resources. The East Timorese are also the lowest paid workers among Asia's newly-industrialized economy, with a minimum wage starting at \$2 day a day.

What strikes activists is that Suharto's regime continues to be supported by many countries, including by Canada, because of economic interests.

Indonesia, along with China and Malaysia, leads a bloc of Asian governments in international forums which reject "human rights" as a Western-imposed notion. This bloc says there is an "Asian concept" of human rights that places greater stress on order and collectivity, and rejects criticism as unwarranted interference in internal affairs.

INFIGHT (the Indonesian Front for the Defence of Human Rights) rejects this idea. In a letter to the Swedish parliament, INFIGHT declared: "As the people of Indonesia, we are of the opinion that we are entitled to make this appeal, as our basic rights have been violated by the Indonesian government since long ago. An enormous amount of foreign aid has been used by the Indonesian government to violate our basic rights. Therefore every foreign

country giving economic aid to Indonesia should be morally responsible."

Canadian aid to Indonesia runs at \$35 to \$70 million a year, including military trade. The Canadian government endorses this by authorizing military exports of over \$362 million worth in 1995 alone.

Along with the brutalities against the people, Canadian mining companies have also been criticized for contributing to growing environmental problems in Indonesia. The rain forests are threatened by large-scale mining, particularly in West Papua.

One of the biggest beneficiaries of mining in Indonesia has been a Canadian-based company, Inco Ltd. Inco opened an open-pit nickel mine in Soroako, a town on the Indonesian island Sulawesi, in 1968. The Canadian government's Export Development Corporation kicked in \$57.25 million in loan guarantees to get the Soroako mine up and running, with further assistance provided by the governments of Britain, the United States, Australia, Norway and Japan.

According to Minewatch, the main reason Inco shifted production from Canada to Indonesia was because of Indonesia's lax environmental standards and plentiful, cheap and exploitative labour.

The treatment of workers at Inco has changed little. The 1992 organization of the Indonesia Prosperity Trade Union (SBSI), an alternative to the "official union," brought a wave of strikes demanding transport and daily food allowances, holiday bonuses, and better working conditions. Women workers have gone on strike to stop indignities such as having to remove their underwear to prove they are eligible for menstruation leave.

Another company, Bata Shoes has two plants in Indonesia with 2 000 workers who were rated the lowest-paid in the 70-country Bata empire by an international union study. In 1979, Bata called in the military to break up strikes at one of the factories.

Pinto describes the treatment of the East Timorese by the Indonesian state as similar to a concentration camp. "I saw with my own eyes people dying of disease, tuberculosis, arbitrary execution, rape and torture." Today, rape and sexual assault by



SALE OF CANDUS TO CHINA QUESTIONED SUPPORT

by Mark Ratner

In spite of the large number of possible jobs to be gained in the Canadian economy from the sale of the Canada Deuterium Uranium (CANDU) nuclear reactors to China, many worry about the unseen costs which may accompany their sale.

An article printed in the November 29 issue of *La Presse* claims "The Canadian Government estimates 8,000 Québec jobs ... will be created by the sale of 2 CANDU reactors."

The deal, which will bring a reported \$1.5 billion into Canada had been in negotiation for the past 2 years. In order to persuade China to buy the reactors, the fed-

eral government agreed to loan China the money to pay for their purchase.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien applauded the sale. "Some people don't like nuclear energy, but for me, I like it," he said. "In Canada, we have never had an accident. It's effective. It's not polluting."

However, environmental groups have expressed outrage over the Canadian Government's continuing endorsement of nuclear energy.

"It is the most expensive and most dangerous form of electricity," says Steve Shallhorn, campaign director for Greenpeace

Canada.

Shallhorn claims that the use of CANDU reactors involves the same safety risks that caused the devastating nuclear meltdowns at the Chernobyl and Three Mile Island nuclear energy plants.

"They are the same reactors — there isn't any particular new design. We are just lucky that we have yet to have a serious accident in Canada" says Shallhorn.

Shallhorn also adds that he worries the sale of nuclear reactors to China will aid China's ability to produce nuclear weapons. Nuclear reactors produce plutonium, which is the main component of nuclear weapons. "China



WORLD Watch

Reprisals Against Prisoners Denounced

Last weekend, family members of prisoners at the Maximum Security Prison in Chile demanded a reinstatement of visitor rights and an end to prisoner abuse.

The prison was the sight of last week's daring helicopter-assisted escape of four prisoners belonging to the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR). The four escapees were involved in the 1991 assassination of opposition Senator Jaime Guzman.

The FPMR was formed 13 years ago in conjunction with the Communist Party in Chile, to oppose the dictatorship of President Augusto Pinochet. Since the restoration of democratic rule in Chile, the FPMR has continued to exist, but disavowed the use of force.

Although visits to the prison have been suspended since the escape, Irma Velez, a member of the Association of Relatives of Political Prisoners, was allowed to enter the jail Thursday to ascertain the condition of prisoners.

After her visit, Velez reported that prisoners' cells had been raided by an anti-riot squad and prisoners were beaten as punishment for the escape. Velez also said four prisoners have been placed incommunicado.

"The government bears sole and exclusive responsibility" for mistreatment given these prisoners, Velez declared.

Family members initiated a round of meetings with Interior Ministry officials to ensure prisoners' safety and the restoration of visitation rights. Velez warned government authorities that unless the normal prison routine is restored shortly, her group will

organize demonstrations both outside and inside the prison.

There has been no official government response to Velez' allegations.

Meanwhile, the issue of the prison's security measure is being debated within government circles, but from a completely different perspective.

Claudio Martinez, the former prison chief forced to resign in the wake of the jail escape, said the Parliament's Human Rights Committee is partly to blame for certain lax measures at the prison. He said the committee's criticism resulted in changed procedures at the prison so that inmates could hold private, unmonitored conversations with family members. Escaped FPMR leader Mauricio Norambuena is believed to have planned and engineered the jail breakout using visitors as intermediaries.

source: Arm The Spirit
ats@locust.cic.net

Hunger strike to protest unfair labour practices

Jorge Luis Alamilla Magana and Venancio Jimenez Martinez, two refuse collectors in Villahermosa, Mexico have been on a hunger strike in front of the National Human Rights Commission in Mexico for 87 days.

Five other workers have been on hunger strike for 44 days and one of them, Agustin Vicente Sanchez has decided to stop taking any liquids as well. "If what they want is someone to die before they give in to our demands,

I voluntarily offer my life for the sake of all my comrades and their families," Vicente Sanchez declared.

The workers have received support from many different social, political, trade union and human rights organizations. The two main opposition parties in Mexico have decided to fully support the workers' cause and their two main leaders, Manuel Lopez Obrador and Cuauhtemoc Cardenas visit the strikers everyday.

The opposition is demanding the direct intervention of Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo in putting an end to the strike. Zedillo has yet to respond.

The refuse collectors are demanding a reinstatement of all 336 refuse collectors who were recently laid off in Villahermosa, payment of the wages for the days of work lost.

Source: labournet
gn.apc.org/labournet/tabsco.html

Amnesty denied to Basque prisoners

170 demonstrators calling for amnesty for Basque political prisoners held in French jails were arrested on December 30, 1996.

The demonstrators had been marching towards the Justice Palace in Paris. But French officials maintained that the demonstration had not been authorized.

The march, which began in French-controlled Northern Basque Country, was organized by anti-repression Basque committees in the region.

The demonstration is not a new event. The march has occurred annually for the last six years as Basques demand amnesty for Basque political prisoners in French jails.

To go along with the protestors' demands, some Basque political prisoners in both French and Spanish jails have been on an indefinite hunger strike since last September 9. This hunger strike is just the latest in series of similar strikes by Basque prisoners who are demanding recognition as political prisoners and to be regrouped in jails in the Basque Country.

There are close to 600 Basque political prisoners scattered over French and Spanish jails with the highest number, approximately 540, in Spain.

Both countries have been condemned by the European Union for their treatment of these prisoners.

But the government of President Jacques Chirac is adamant on its stance. When Chirac was Prime Minister of France between 1986 and 1988, he stepped up the repression against Basque activists. And just last May, Chirac ordered still greater cooperation with Madrid against the Basque resistance after fellow conservative Jose Maria Aznar took over as Spanish Prime Minister.

Source: Arm the Spirit
ats@locust.cic.net

ong way off

soldiers and police officers occur randomly with no direct political motive. Women also report having been raped and sexually abused during house-to-house searches, a common occurrence in East Timor.

The Catholic Church, which represents the faith of the vast majority of the population, is the only institution which has been able to act freely in East Timor. It attempts to support the people in their struggle. This year East Timor's bishop, Monsignor Carlos Ximenes Belo won the Nobel Peace Prize, sharing it with East Timorese Activist Jose Romon Horta.

Since 1994, soldiers have broken into churches, harassed nuns and smashed holy symbols in order to discourage further support from the church.

The East Timor-based National Council of Maubere Resistance (referred to by its Portuguese acronym CNRM), is the umbrella organization of all East Timorese struggling for self-determination and independence for their country. In keeping with the enhanced

peace making and peace keeping role of the United Nations, the leaders of CNRM have advanced a plan to assist the UN Secretary General's mandate to find a solution to the East Timor conflict. The plan includes three phases toward achieving self-determination within a ten year period with the goal of restoring all basic human rights.

The East Timor Alert Network (ETAN), a Canadian organization has suggested that trade must be explicitly linked to human rights in East Timor and Indonesia. They advocate that Canadian investment be frozen until Indonesia respects UN resolutions to leave East Timor. ETAN points out that the Canadian government has imposed sanctions against countries like Nigeria and Sudan, where human rights violations have been a problem and should take the same measures with Indonesia.

ETAN can be contacted at PO Box 562, Station P, Toronto, ON, M5S 2T1. Tel: (416) 531-5850, Fax: (416) 588-5556, E-mail: etantor@web.net. In Montreal: c/o Jim Robertson no. 47505, Co.P. Plateau Mont-Royal H2H 2S8.

ONED

FOR REACTORS MELTS DOWN

is the world's fourth largest holder of weapons," explains Shallhorn.

Dave Martin, research director for the Nuclear Awareness program echoes Shallhorn's concerns over the viability of nuclear energy. "Fundamentally, nuclear power is a flawed technology. It is polluting and expensive," says Martin.

Martin also says that a main problem with the CANDU reactors is that they are often sold to "countries with severe human rights violations."

Human rights issues are a main concern of Canada's dealings with China. "The human rights situa-

tion [in China] is not improving," says Carole Channer, coordinator for China at the English speaking branch of Amnesty International Canada.

Channer points out that Amnesty International documented 1,000 executions in China within a three month period in 1996. China is also known to actively persecute political dissidents. As well, says Channer, "There is repression of any [dissenting] cultural, religious or ethnic sentiment."

However, Channer makes it clear that Amnesty International does not take a position regarding international trade

boycotts. "We are not opposed to trade with China," explains Channer, saying that Amnesty's concern "is of human rights violations."

Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL), the Crown Corporation that manufactures the CANDU reactors, refutes the claim that their reactors are unsafe.

"The world-class CANDU 6 reactor has an international reputation as one of the world's best and safest reactors," states the AECL's internet site. The company says that "International experts consistently rank CANDU 6 reactors in

the world's top 10 for annual and lifetime performance and safety."

But for Martin, the AECL has little credibility because they have "a history of bribery and corruption." Martin points out that in 1994, an agent of the AECL was "arrested and jailed for paying bribes to South Korea."

Recently, a blow was struck against the CANDUs reputation for safety. In New Brunswick, a CANDU reactor has just sprung a leak. Last Thursday, The Globe and Mail reported that a legislator "says there's new evidence of more serious problems that could shut down the plant for good."

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Student Health Services needs a health promotion coordinator. Part time until April, full time in summer, part time in 97-98. See ad at CAPS for more info.

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Rm 430 Shatner Building

Events

Thursday, January 16

• Scrivener presents Akhtar Narghi, reading from her book, "The Big Green House." Thomson House, 3650 McTavish, 19h. \$2.

Saturday, January 18

• Atwater Library Computer Centre presents a free public Internet demonstration. 1200 Atwater Avenue, 13h-17h. Info: 935-7344.

Sunday, January 19

• Rotaract Ski Trip to be held at Mt. Orford. Snowboard or ski package costs \$35, includes lift ticket, rentals and 90 minute lesson. Lift ticket \$20, \$15. Call Chi at 256-0745 for more information.

Wednesday, January 22

• Communications workshop, "Writing Essays You'd be surprised!" by Robert Stewart at the Montreal Press Club, 1240 Drummond (Mezzanine Level), 18h-19h. 875-0964.

Friday, January 24

• Flux Magazine will be holding a benefit party at the Cabaret Music Hall. Host: J.R. Carpenter, Montréal author. Dominatrix "Bear" will be performing with a partner. Special guest drag performer. 2111 St. Laurent, 22h-3h.

Beyond

• McGill Women's Union is holding a general meeting, January 27, for all women interested in volunteering. 16h30. Rm. 423 Shatner. Info: 398-6823.

Ongoing

• Meals on Wheels seeks volunteer cooks and helpers for either Monday or Thursday mornings from 8h30-10h30. Commitment is once a month. Info: 937-9471.

• A taskforce is being formed to deal specifically with the organization of events, activist campaigns on campus and the implementation of policies regarding issues such as harassment and safety. We need people with energy and/or ideas. Info: Women's Union, 398-6823.

• Hebrew classes, beginner and advanced beginner. Eight week session, \$65.00. Info: Luni at Hillel Jewish Student Centre, 845-9171.

• Hillel Jewish Student Centre trip to Washington D.C. and the Holocaust Memorial Museum, Jan. 25 to 28th. Includes transportation, one night accommodation, dinner and Museum visit. Sign up by Jan. 16. Info: Luni, 845-9171.

• Free Bereavement Support Groups offered through the McGill school of Social Work for adults, children, parents, adolescents, young adults, and family survivors of suicide. Info: Estelle Hopmeyer, 398-7067.

• The Yellow Door Elderly Project. Help seniors in the downtown community with a few hours a week. Info: the Yellow Door (3625 Aylmer) or call Chi or Joanna at 398-6243.

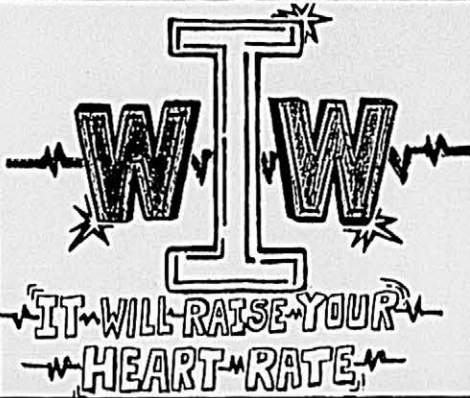

• Scrivener is accepting creative art, photography, fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Submissions can be dropped off in the Scrivener's box at the porter's office of the Arts Building or mailed to Scrivener Creative Review, 853 Sherbrooke West, Montreal, QC, H3A 2T6. For info call 848-0578. Deadline: January 15.

(events)


Monday, January 13, 1997

The McGill Daily

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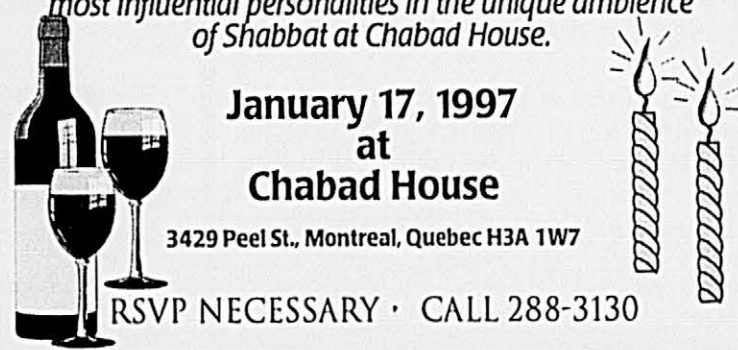
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2-3 pm
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3-4 pm
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ELECTIONS

Post Graduate Student's Society (PGSS)

Call for nominations for the following positions of PGSS executives:

- President
- VP Administration
- VP External
- VP Finance
- VP Internal
- VP University Affairs

and graduate representatives for:

- Senator (Ph.D.)
- Senator (Master's)
- Board of Governors

Call for member initiated referendum questions. Deadline: Tuesday, January 28th, noon.

All regular members of the Post Graduate Student's Society are eligible for nominations and submission of referendum questions. Elections, if any, will be held in mid-March.

The following deadline will be observed for PGSS positions:

Wednesday, February 5th, 6:30 pm

Nomination forms, instructions for the candidates and guidelines for submission of the referendum questions can be obtained at Thomson House, 3650 McTavish, in the PGSS office (4th floor) or at the front desk. They have to be returned to the Chief Returning Officer (PGSS office) by the specified deadline.

Please note that PGSS executives are awarded a yearly stipend of \$6,000.


Information: Christie Stephenson, CR0
 398-3756
 BL7N@musicB.McGill.ca

What is QPIRG?

QPIRG is:

- Alternatives in Education*
- CCWM (Campus and Community Waste Management)*
- EarthSave*
- Just Coffee Campaign*
- The LOAF Organic Food Coop*
- The Nigeria Action Network*
- NYCE (The Network for Youth in Community Economics)*
- Perspective Magazine*
- PROBE (Public Research on Business Ethics)*
- The Women of Colour Collective*

Come find out about all of QPIRG's Working Groups:
Wednesday January 15, 4:30 pm
room 310 of the Shatner Building



The Quebec Public Interest Research Group at McGill (QPIRG)
 3647 University, 3rd Floor, 398-7432, fax: 398-8976
<http://www.vub.mcgill.ca/clubs/qpirg/>

(If you can't make this meeting but would still like to know more about QPIRG, please call 398-7432, and ask for Sara.)